SELF CONTAINED LUBRICANT DISPENSER

TECHNICAL FIELD

This application claims the benefit of US Application serial number 60/412,530, filed September 20, 2002.

BACKGROUND ART

While larger vehicle maintenance and service facilities have a number of options for automated metered dispensing of fluids, smaller facilities performing relatively few daily oil changes (e.g. 5) have less choice. In such applications, lubricants may be dispensed by (1) pouring from quart/liter containers; (2) hand pumping from a bulk container; or (3) filling a bucket or other container with the desired quantity of lubricant and then pouring from that container into the vehicle.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a portable integrated oil dispensing unit primarily for use in auto repair shops and low volume service stations where low volume, infrequent fluid dispense is desired.

Towards this end, the integrated design incorporates a dispense valve, a meter, a hose, an AC powered (plug it into a normal wall socket) electric pump, power cord and adjustable fluid suction tube, all packaged in one portable unit.. The unit is capable of dispensing fluids such as standard SAE grade automotive motor oils, automatic transmission fluid (ATF), gear lube, hydraulic oil and engine coolant (antifreeze) The pump motor will shut down at completion of dispense; and emergency shut-off can be provided

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will appear more fully from the following description made in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters refer to the same or similar parts throughout the several views.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic view of the lubricant dispenser of the instant invention.

Figure 2 is a view of the lubricant dispenser of the preferred embodiment of the instant invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The instant invention, generally designated 10, is comprised of a flow meter 1 in conjunction with a pump 2. In the preferred embodiment, these two elements are combined wherein pump 2 is of the gerotor type and the flow meter 1 is formed by locating a Hall Effect sensor 2a in the gerotor housing so as to count the pulses generated by movement of the gerotor teeth due to fluid flow therethrough.

A DC motor 3 drives pump 2 through a gearbox 12 to reduce the rpm level. In the preferred embodiment, the motor 3 runs at 20,000 RPM and is geared down to around 600 rpm to yield a flow rate of around 1.5 gallons per minute. Dispenser 10 is designed for mounting on a bulk fluid container 4 and has a suction tube 5 depending downwardly into container 4. A portable base 6 may be provided.

Dispensing hose 7 leads to dispense valve 8 which has a display 8a thereon to indicate the amount dispensed. Dispense valve 8 is provided with a non-drip nozzle 14 which requires a pressure of about 20 psi in order to open and provide fluid flow. Dispense valve 8 also has a trigger 8b which is an electrical switch rather than a mechanical valve and communicates with control 16 either via a wireless link or through one or more wires 7A incorporated into hose 7. A hose reel 11 or hose rack (for winding up hose) is desirably incorporated into the unit 10. Flow meter 1 transmits volume dispense information to display 8a either via a wireless link or through one or more wires 7A incorporated into hose 7.

For operation, all the operator need do is insert suction tube 5 into container 4 and place unit 10 on top of container 4. After plugging in the unit, it is ready to dispense. The unit first has to be primed, that is, by opening the dispense valve 8 until fluid flows from

valve 8. At that point, flow meter 1 will read the amount dispensed. The flow meter/display combination and associated control electronics are also capable of performing preset dispense, that is, a desired amount (e.g. 5 quarts) is designated by the operator and the unit ceases dispensing when that amount has been dispensed.

It is contemplated that various changes and modifications may be made to the lubricant dispenser without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the following claims.